

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
TOWN OF RIVERSIDE, WASHINGTON  
April 14, 2015 10:00 AM PST**

**Participating**

Town of Riverside

- Sharma Dickinson

State of Washington

- Michelle Gilbert

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren – Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Becca Fricke-Croft, Meeting Host
- Troy Sova
- Andy Dobson

**Discussion**

Becca Fricke-Croft made introductions and presented an overview of the RiskMAP program and the different projects and products that can benefit communities. Our overall goal is discovering how FEMA can help Riverside become a more hazard and disaster-resilient community. A copy of the presentation is included with these meeting notes as Appendix A.

Pre-Discovery meetings and interviews with communities within the Okanogan Watershed have been scheduled throughout March and April, 2015. Discovery Meetings are scheduled May 4 - 6, 2015.

*The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from the City of Riverside representatives.*

Community Contacts

- Trying to get in contact with fire department to have them participate in Discovery Meeting next month.

Fact Sheets and Interview Maps (Riverside not able to see maps due to internet connection problems)

- How does the information we provided look to you? Revisions or questions?

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- Troy mentioned being able to get additional data from County GIS since initial Discovery map was published—including roads, transportation infrastructure, critical facilities, etc. Some new data also coming from state sources.
- Floodplain information for Riverside still older Q3 data—digital flood maps not available until new study takes place
- Would like to learn more about environmentally sensitive areas, levees, other critical facilities when we visit next month
- Where are critical facilities and infrastructure located?
- Do you know of any other projects that have collected topographic data that could be useful?
  - Sharma mentioned having some shoreline mapping that might be helpful, could include local levee locations
- Do you have a GIS specialist and data layers that we could add to our maps?
  - Riverside relies on County GIS services, nobody is on staff locally

**Planning**

- What do you value in your community?
  - Lots of historic structures (not registered in historical society)
  - Bedroom community to nearby larger cities – Omak and Tonasket
  - 280 residents, most of whom live within mapped 100-year floodplain, with a few in the 500-year. Zero growth rate
  - WWTP under construction, could spur new development (development at standstill currently because of water rates)
- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
  - Don't know how involved Riverside was in County HMP (Sharma is new to this position with the town)
- Top hazard mitigation priorities
  - Flooding is priority concern, although haven't had one since 1970
- Status of evacuation, response, and recovery planning
- Successful FEMA grant applications and projects
- Other hazard mitigation programs happening nearby—county, region, etc.
- Land development or other regulations related to hazard mitigation

**Earthquake Hazard**

- Risk level/concern – none at this time
- History
- Damage
- Vulnerable locations
- Mitigation projects or initiatives

#### Wildfire Hazard

- Risk level/concern
  - Surrounded by alfalfa fields, not impacted by large fires that hit the rest of the county because of agriculture and irrigation
  - Still a risk though—lots of dry weather is ongoing concern
- Vulnerable locations – Potential still exists
- Other needs
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - Fire district 7 working with community about fire hazard awareness

#### Landslide Hazard

- Risk level/concern
  - Never had a landslide as far as Sharma knows, doesn't seem like a concern
  - Homes on Tower Street susceptible, if anywhere in town, area is fully developed
  - Some washout areas due to rain storm four years ago, slopes above Highway 97, Lighthouse Chapel
  - Mt. Olive estates
- History – landslides occurred near Highway 97
- Vulnerable locations, neighborhoods, infrastructure
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - No current development restrictions in place, not a lot of new construction

#### Severe Storm Hazard

- Risk level/concern
  - Valley geography shelters Riverside from worst of windstorms
  - Small amounts of localized flooding during heavy rains
- Damage, power blackouts, duration
  - Areas outside of town occasionally lose power during storms due to winds
- Shelter needs and facilities
  - No need, although shelter buildings are identified. Local Grange Hall and the Town Hall
- Communication and warning systems
  - Door to door, telephone calls, radio notification, Facebook Page
- Mitigation projects or initiatives – none at this time

#### Flood Hazard

- Risk level/concern
- FIRM comments, revisions, questions
  - Flood mapping looks accurate to Sharma
- Repetitive loss properties

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- Riverside Grocery mentioned—impacted by localized storm flooding during very heavy rain
- Recent infrastructure projects that might affect floodplain/floodway/elevations
- New development or construction that could affect runoff amounts, impact waterways
  - New home construction on west side of river on hilltop above Highway 97
  - Tract of land north side of town may be built with homes in near future—farmer looking to sell - Standard Building permits
- Are there any new floodplain studies underway? – none at this time
- Other flooding issues or concerns
  - Few houses on Main Street have flooding within basements.

**Levees**

- Other levees or flood control structures not shown on the map
- Documentation
  - Dike Committee & Flood Control Group (Bill Blunk), works with Army Corps and Dept. of Ecology to maintain and certify levee

**Communications and Outreach**

- Current community outreach/engagement – none at this time
- How would residents react to changes in floodplain mapping
- Where does your community get information about disasters and hazards
  - More information concerning hazards is always helpful.
- Who are the key players in communication and outreach to residents
- What kind of outreach works best in your community
  - Personal, door-to-door, phone tree
- Current awareness among residents about disasters and hazards
- Regular meetings of boards, organizations, etc. where outreach could happen
- Use of RiskMAP products for outreach, communication, and education

**Compliance and Training**

- Floodplain administrator
  - Sharma is FPA
- Floodplain permitting - Through Buildings permits
- Training and support
  - Very interested in any materials and information we could provide

**Next Steps**

- Will continue this conversation at the Discovery Meeting next month—feel free to contact us with any questions or additional information
- Invitations will be coming out to communities very soon – include Fire District & Bill Blunk

## **Appendix A: Interview Presentation**



FEMA

# Risk MAP Discovery

## Okanogan & Wenatchee Watersheds

Information Exchange Sessions  
March/April 2015

**RiskMAP**

Increasing Resilience Together



# Information Exchange Agenda

- **Overview of Risk MAP and Discovery**
- **Introduction to Enhanced Risk MAP Products**
- **Interactive Questionnaire**
- **Close**

# The Vision for Risk MAP

Through collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal entities, Risk MAP will deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property





# RiskMAP

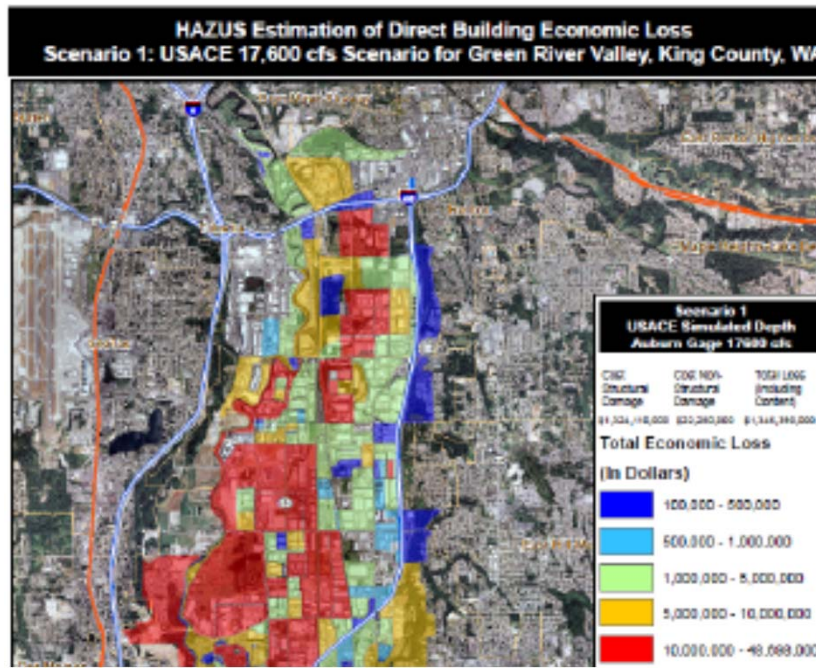
Increasing Resilience Together

- Collaborative approach
- Goals: quality data, public awareness, action that reduces risk
- Watershed-oriented
- Multi-Hazard
- Focus on up-front coordination
- Discovery is mandatory

# Risk MAP Products

## Multi-Frequency Depth & Water-Surface Elevation (WSE) Grids

10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% annual chance profiles



### Inundation

- 3 feet or less
- 3 to 6 feet
- 6 feet +

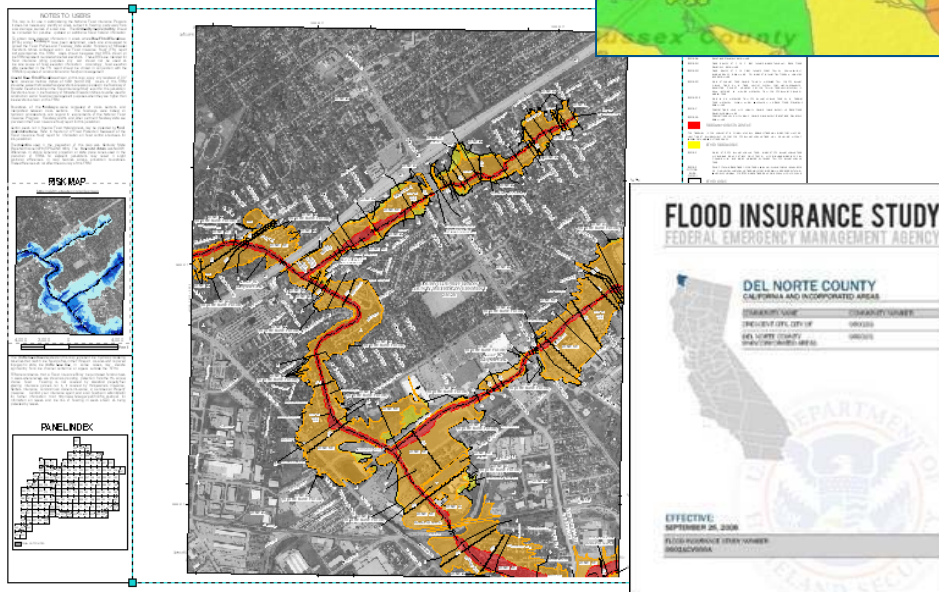
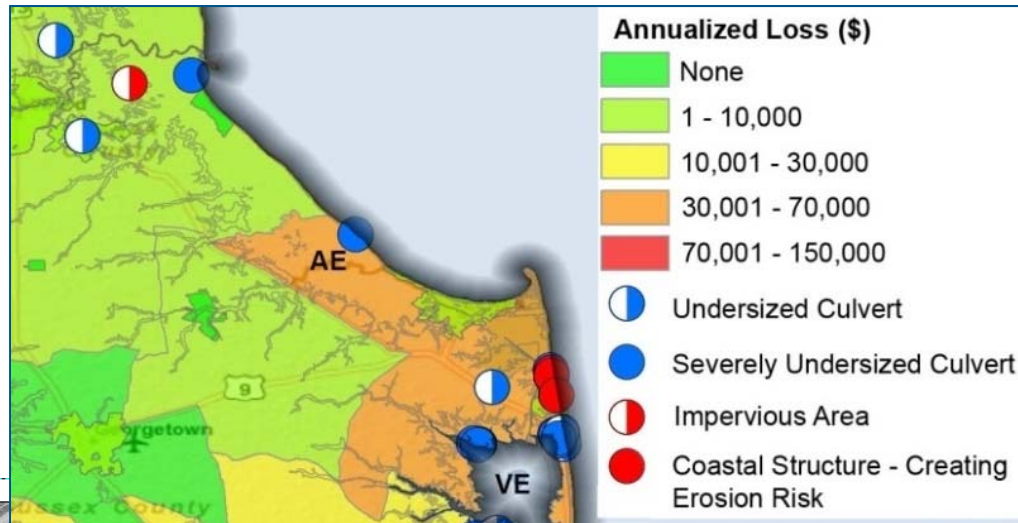
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

Enables communities to understand risk by reference to existing structure loss

# Risk MAP Products

## Contributing Hazard Factors

Highlights areas of concern identified throughout project



## FIS Reports and DFIRM Maps

DFIRM and FIS will continue to fulfill regulatory requirements and support the NFIP

# Discovery

***Discovery is the process of data collection and analysis with the goal of initiating a hazard risk or mitigation project and risk discussions within the watershed***

## **When:**

- After an area/watershed has been prioritized
- Before a Risk MAP project is scoped or funded

## **Required for new and updated...**

- Flood studies
- Flood risk assessments
- Mitigation planning technical assistance projects

## **Why:**

- Increases visibility of flood risk information, education, involvement
- Helps inform whether a Risk MAP project will occur in the watershed



# Okanogon & Wenatchee Discovery

- **Federal and State Data Collection**
- **Local Issues: Identify Risk MAP Needs**
  - Need support with mitigation planning?
  - Need mitigation projects?
  - Need new flood study data?
  - Need training on floodplain management?
  - Need support developing a hazard risk outreach program?
  - What else can FEMA do to help your community become resilient?
- **Pre-Discovery Interviews: March/April 2015**
- **Discovery Meetings: May 4-6, 2015**
- **Risk MAP Project(s) Identified**
- **Possible FEMA Funding Allocated for Risk MAP Project**

# Discovery Interview

- **Local Contacts**
- **Data**
  - LiDAR
  - Local or Regional GIS Data
- **Mitigation Planning**
  - Desired Mitigation Projects
- **Local Hazards**
  - Earthquakes
  - Wildfires
  - Landslides
  - Severe Storms
  - Flooding
- **Levees**
- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
- **Communications and Outreach**
- **Compliance and Training**

Mitigation Planning		
How would you describe your level of involvement with the development of the mitigation plan? (Considerable, Moderate, Minimal)	Do you need assistance with mitigation planning in your community? (Yes, No, Possibly)	Mitigation Planning Comments, Explanations, Questions

# Questions?

## FEMA

- **Amanda Siok, Risk Analyst, [amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **Kristen Meyers, Mitigation Planner, [kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **Ted Perkins, Regional Engineer, [dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov)**

## WASHINGTON

- **Jerry Franklin, State Risk MAP Coordinator, [jfra461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jfra461@ecy.wa.gov)**
- **Michelle Gilbert, Floodplain Management Specialist, [migi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:migi461@ecy.wa.gov)**

## STARR

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